

City of Corunna
Regular Council Meeting
Monday, August 19, 2002

Present: Corey, Jessen, Johnson, Mehigh, Runyan, Sanderson, Wagner.

Absent: None.

Guests: Joe Sawyer, City Manager; Janet Washburn, Parks and Recreation Director; Judy Horton; Jackie Leone, The Argus Press; Merilee Lawson, City Planner & Assessor; Jerry Klingler; Sgt. Kevin Clark, Police Department; Susan Groll; Shirley Sanderson; and other concerned citizens.

The meeting was called to order in the City Council Chambers by Mayor Corey at 7:03 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS REGULAR MEETING: Johnson moved, Sanderson seconded to approve the regular meeting minutes of August 5, 2002 as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson, Runyan, Jessen, Mehigh.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

AGENDA APPROVAL: Runyan moved, Jessen seconded to approve the agenda with the addition of Presentation of the Youth Hockey Rink before Item No. 1.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Jessen, Runyan, Mehigh, Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

APPROVAL OF VENDOR DISBURSEMENTS: Mehigh moved, Johnson seconded to approve the vendor disbursements as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Wagner, Jessen, Sanderson, Mehigh, Johnson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

PRESENTATION OF YOUTH HOCKEY RINK: Susan Groll presented council with signed paperwork, which gives the youth hockey rink to the city. She advised the hockey league would like to have a dedication/ribbon cutting on September 7 at 9:30 a.m. and asked council if they could meet at the hockey rink for pictures. Mehigh moved, Sanderson seconded to accept the hockey rink from the youth hockey league and authorize the mayor to sign the appropriate documents.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Sanderson, Mehigh, Johnson, Jessen, Wagner, Runyan.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT/PRE-COUNCIL DISCUSSION: Joe Sawyer reviewed his

manager's report. He advised the Friends of the DDA would be meeting on September 4 at 4:00 p.m. at the Courtside Café. He further advised he witnessed the construction of a dam using a technique called Roller Compacted Concrete. Spicer Engineering, which is an engineering firm out of Saginaw, is overseeing this dam installation and they put on a presentation showing how the technique is used. Mr. Sawyer also advised if the city uses this technique, the cost to replace the dam might be under \$250,000. Councilperson Mehig stated he was very impressed with how the dam was installed. The dam looks like steps, and as water goes over the dam, the energy dissipates so there is no water turbulence. Councilperson Sanderson stated a new dam could be built in three days. Mr. Sawyer advised dams under six feet are not regulated by the state, and the city's current dam is just above six feet. He further advised the mixing plant comes from Georgia so it may be cost prohibitive to have them come just to do the city's dam. He suggested encouraging the Genesee County drain commissioners to do Chappel Dam with this process so the people from Georgia will come back to the state again. He also advised the mixing plant was ready to come to Corunna, but unfortunately, government does not work that fast. Mr. Sawyer stated he was in the process of setting up a meeting with gentleman from a concrete association that put on part of the dam presentation with Spicer Engineering. He further stated a joint meeting would be held with council, the public and the dam review committee so everyone will see what the dam process looks like. He also stated there would be a meeting with Spicer Engineering in the next two weeks in order to try to get some shop drawings and preliminary cost estimates. Mayor Corey suggested contacting other communities to see if they would be interested in attending the presentation.

Mr. Sawyer advised Economic Development Fund money could be used to repair the industrial sign at Sleseman Drive. He received an estimate from Agnew Graphics in the amount of \$7,000 to repair the sign, but there may be some structural problems that might need to be repaired. Mark Agnew has suggested replacing the sign since a wooden sign has a life span of three to five years.

Mr. Sawyer reviewed and explained the planning commission membership options that he had received from the city attorney. Councilperson Mehig stated there would be more communication between the council and the planning commission if a council member was on the planning commission. He asked Mr. Sawyer to get more information.

Mr. Sawyer stated it appeared that council wanted to discontinue the operations and/or planning/policy committees since the committee of the whole is meeting before every council meeting. Councilperson Runyan stated he agreed, but he wanted at least one additional committee of the whole meeting each month to review items that would take longer than a half hour. He suggested scheduling a committee of the whole meeting for the fourth Monday of the month. Councilperson Mehig stated he felt council needed the extra meeting so council could discuss what they should look at in the future. Mayor Corey asked council if they wanted to discontinue the operations and planning/policy meetings. Council was in agreement. Mayor Corey asked council if they wanted to establish a once a month regular committee of the whole meeting. Councilperson Sanderson suggested the second Monday of the month. Councilperson Johnson advised the library board meets on the second Monday of the month.

Mayor Corey suggested the fourth Monday of the month, which council was agreeable to. Mr. Sawyer asked if there was a Heritage Park Committee. Janet Washburn advised yes. Mr. Sawyer advised he would get the names of the committee members for appointment.

APPOINT OFFICER DELEGATE AND OFFICER ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE TO

M.E.R.S. ANNUAL MEETING: Johnson moved, Sanderson seconded to appoint Yvonne Long as Officer Delegate, and Joe Sawyer as Alternate to the M.E.R.S. Annual Meeting.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Mehigh, Jessen, Runyan, Johnson, Sanderson, Wagner.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER RESCINDING TRAFFIC CONTROL ORDER #4 DATED DECEMBER 4, 1974. (ONE

WAY TRAFFIC ON CORUNNA HIGH SCHOOL DRIVE FROM EAST KING TO EAST MCARTHUR): Johnson moved, Wagner seconded to rescind Traffic Control Order #4, dated December 4, 1974.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Johnson, Sanderson, Wagner, Mehigh, Runyan, Jessen.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER TRAFFIC CONTROL ORDER #204. (NO LEFT TURN, 7AM-8AM & 2PM-3PM

FROM CORUNNA MIDDLE SCHOOL PARKING LOT NORTHBOUND ONTO KING

STREET): Mr. Sawyer advised he spoke with Superintendent John Smith earlier today and this issue is on the school board's agenda so it might be appropriate to table this item for two weeks until the city finds out what action was taken at the school board meeting and Mr. Smith was agreeable. Mehigh moved, Johnson seconded to table Traffic Control Order #204 until the next council meeting in order to get more information.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson, Runyan, Jessen, Mehigh.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER RESOLUTION 08-19-02-01 – HEADLEE OVERRIDE MILLAGE PROPOSAL: Mr.

Sawyer reviewed the Headlee override information. He explained the city charter allows 15 mills and the Headlee amendment has reduced the city's millage rate each year. The city's present millage rate is 13.646. He further explained that now would be a good time to ask the voters for a millage override. Councilperson Sanderson stated it would be more sensible to keep the city close to the 15 mills instead of letting the millage rate go down too far. He further stated it is important for people to know that the millage should be kept to the 15 mills. Councilperson Runyan stated if the 15 mills pass, council could allocate 14 mills and then allocate additional millage the next year. Councilperson Mehigh stated the city has no options. The city has a lot of non-taxable property and council should ask the people to consider the increase. Councilperson Johnson agreed. Mayor Corey advised the people would want to know how much the increase would cost them. Merilee Lawson advised the average increase would be \$30 to \$45 per year, but the people living in the Crestview subdivision would be hit the hardest because the homes in the subdivision are close to where the values should be while the rest of the values in the city are ridiculously low. Councilperson Mehigh asked how much money would be generated. Ms. Lawson advised \$100,000 the first year. Councilperson Sanderson suggested holding a public meeting to get information out to the people before passing the resolution. Mr. Sawyer advised tonight was the deadline to get the proposal on the November ballot. Councilperson Runyan suggested having a question and answer informational meeting before the election to get the information out to the people.

Councilperson Sanderson advised people do not understand where their money is going. Mehig moved, Sanderson seconded to approve the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 08-19-02-01
HEADLEE OVERRIDE MILLAGE PROPOSAL

WHEREAS, Governor Engler's recent veto of statutory revenue sharing has highlighted the importance to the City's budget of non-local revenue sources the receipt of which is affected by decisions that are beyond local control; and

WHEREAS, The City of Corunna has experienced decreases in revenue sharing in the past year due to declines in Michigan's economy; and

WHEREAS, The City of Corunna has experienced a decrease in Taxable Value in the past year due to stagnant growth and loss of personal property; and

WHEREAS, the "Headlee" amendment to the Michigan Constitution has had the effect of reducing the City's capability to replace state revenues with funds generated locally through the levy of the property tax; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution requires a vote of the citizens of Corunna in order to restore the City's millage rate to the Charter-authorized maximum of 15 mills; and

WHEREAS, it is prudent to seek voter approval to restore the City's millage rate so as to have greater flexibility in utilizing local sources of revenue when the City Council should deem it fiscally prudent to do so;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the following proposal be submitted to the electors in the City of Corunna at the November 5, 2002 general election:

GENERAL OPERATING MILLAGE PROPOSAL
(RESTORATION OF "HEADLEE" REDUCTION)

This proposal requests an increase in the millage rate for general municipal purposes. The "Headlee" amendment to the Michigan Constitution of 1963 has caused a reduction in the City of Corunna's millage rate. The increase will allow the City of Corunna to levy the maximum amount permitted by its Charter.

Shall the millage authorized to be levied for general municipal purposes by the City of Corunna, Michigan be increased from \$13.646 per \$1,000 of taxable valuation to \$15.000 per \$1,000 of taxable valuation?

YES _____
NO _____

Roll call vote:

Yes: Jessen, Runyan Mehig, Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR SEPTEMBER 3RD (TUESDAY), 2002 AT 7:15 P.M. TO CONSIDER MODIFICATIONS TO THE ASSAULT AND BATTERY ORDINANCE TO COMPLY WITH CHANGES IN STATE OF MICHIGAN LAWS: Runyan moved, Sanderson seconded to set a public hearing for Tuesday, September 3rd, 2002 at 7:15 p.m. to consider modifications to the Assault and Battery Ordinance to comply with changes in State of Michigan laws.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Wagner, Jessen, Sanderson, Mehig, Johnson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF MERILEE LAWSON TO THE FOREST MANAGEMENT

COMMISSION: Runyan moved, Johnson seconded to appoint Merilee Lawson to the Forest Management Commission for a term to begin upon the taking of the oath of office and continuing until December 31, 2002 or until a successor is appointed.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Sanderson, Mehig, Johnson, Jessen, Wagner, Runyan.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Judy Horton asked what the traffic pattern change out of the middle school would do to Dutcher Street and Kingsley Street. Mayor Corey advised this would give those streets more traffic because the traffic would only be able to go one way. Ms. Horton stated if the traffic change was being done to alleviate traffic downtown, the traffic would only go one block and then go back to Corunna Avenue. Mayor Corey advised he thought the change would alleviate traffic when everyone is pulling into the school driveways.

Janet Washburn advised it was mentioned during council that the city is spending money on the grandstand roof and she wanted council to understand that the money being spent came from an insurance claim that the city received last year. Councilperson Sanderson stated he understood where the money came from, but he wants the people in town to know what their money is being spent on.

Merilee Lawson stated she was submitting items to the planning commission that need to be addressed by the city and invited council to attend the planning commission meeting on Wednesday night. She further stated there are some state laws that are not being addressed that need to be addressed.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: Councilperson Runyan stated the dam building presentation was very impressive and advised the public should be invited to an informational meeting.

Councilperson Mehig asked Mr. Sawyer to find out how much traffic would be generated down King Street with the traffic pattern change. Councilperson Mehig stated he would like to see the traffic change tried before a traffic control ordinance is adopted because he has some real reservations about the traffic going down King street. Councilperson Jessen advised there are parts of King Street where two cars cannot pass each other.

Councilperson Johnson advised the Library Board meeting held last Thursday night went very well and she was treated extremely well. She further advised the Library Board would like to set up a meeting with the whole council. At first, the Library Board wanted a meeting with just

six people, but she told them no, she wanted the whole council and Library Board to meet and the Library Board agreed. She also advised the Library Board would like to have the meeting in the community center, which is more of a neutral zone. Councilperson Johnson stated she told the Library Board if they had something to bring to the council, the board could give it to her since she is the council appointment to the Library Board or to Mr. Sawyer, and the Library Board agreed. She further stated the Library Board took what she told them very well. There were some letters that the board members were going to read, but the board members decided not to read them until everyone met as a group. Mayor Corey asked if the Library Board had a suggested meeting date. Councilperson Johnson advised the Library Board would like the meeting by the end of August. Mayor Corey asked council what night would be agreeable. Councilperson Sanderson advised any night but Tuesday. Mayor Corey suggested Wednesday night. Councilperson Mehig suggested Monday night at 7 p.m. at the community center. Mr. Sawyer asked council if they wanted the notice posted as a workshop or a special meeting. Councilperson Mehig advised a special meeting. Mayor Corey advised the meeting should be a special meeting so council can get paid. He further advised the meeting would be held Monday at 7 p.m. in the community center and the agenda item would be library.

Mayor Corey commended Councilperson Johnson for the work she does at the ambulance service. He read an interesting article in the newspaper about her. The person who wrote the article was very impressed with Councilperson Johnson and Mayor Corey stated he was proud of the work she does. Mayor Corey advised council needs to appoint someone to the Economic Development Fund Board. He asked if the board meets during the daytime. Mr. Sawyer advised in the past, the committee has met during the day. Mayor Corey stated he could make a recommendation for the board at the next meeting if a councilperson was interested in serving on the board. Councilperson Johnson stated she would serve on the board if no one else wanted to. Mayor Corey stated he would fill out the paperwork.

Councilperson Mehig stated the article on Councilperson Johnson was passed around at the ambulance board meeting and everyone thought the article was very nice. The ambulance service employees mentioned in the article do an outstanding job, and it is a compliment to get those types of comments from a police officer.

ADJOURN: Runyan moved, Jessen seconded to adjourn.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Mehig, Jessen, Runyan, Johnson, Sanderson, Wagner.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 8:45 p.m.

STEVE COREY, MAYOR

LINDA M. LeCUREUX, DEPUTY CLERK